Station (TAPS) provided for IAEA safeguards on TAPS. Accordingly a trilateral safeguards agreement was entered into in 1971 between IAEA, India and the USA. This trilateral safeguards agreement expired on 24-10-1993 alongwith the 1963 bilateral cooperation agreement.

It is proposed to continue operation of TAPS with a fuel core consisting of indigenously fabricated MOX (Mixed Uranium-Plutonium Oxide) fuel and Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) fuel. For this TAPS spent fuel has to be reprocessed to obtain the Plutonium required for the MOX fuel. As a confidence building measure, the Government of India made a voluntary offer to IAEA in August this year to apply safeguards on the nuclear material used in TAPS on a bilateral basis between India and the IAEA; this offer is to take effect after the expiry of the trilateral safeguards agreement on 24-10-1993. An adhoc arrangement valid till 1st March 1994 providing for safeguards has been entered into between the Government of India and the IAEA.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to operate TAPS under the arrangements mentioned above.

Uranium Deposits Found in A.P.

859. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Uranium deposits have been found recently at Lambapur in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, what steps Government is taking to recover and collect the above deposits ; and

(c) what is Government's plan to discover the Uranium deposits in the whole of Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exploratory drilling has been started by Departmental Drill Machines over a limited area to assess the potentiality and economic viability of the occurrence.

(c) Efforts will be continued in the form of reconnaissance survey and follow up investigation in the adjoining areas of Lambapur and other parts of Nalgonda District to search for similar occurrences.

Controversial Tarapur Reactor Issue

860. DR. NAUN1HAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER to pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the controversial issues of the Tarapur reactor spent fuel could precipitate the first major confrontation on non-proliferation between India and the Clinton administration;

(b) if so, what strategy Government propose to adopt to avoid the confrontation; and

(c) what is Government's policy to solve the issue on a permanent basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVENSH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The 1963 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between the US and India for setting up of Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) expired on October 24, 1993. It is proposed to continue operation of TAPS with a fuel core consisting of indigenously fabricated MOX (Mixed Uranium-Plutonium Oxide) fuel and Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) fuel. For this TAPS spent fuel has to be reprocessed to obtain the plutonium required for the MOX fuel. As a confidence building measure, the Government of India made a voluntary offer